

### Democracy at Lowest Point, Lessing Says

City Judge Robert Lessing was not present at Tuesday night's city council meeting when 300 citizens appeared in his defense but he wrote the following statement the next day:

"The action of the city council and the conduct of Murray, Powell and Babcock at the meeting last night were final and conclusive proof that democracy in Torrance has reached the lowest point in the history of American community life.

"The attitude of these three 'public servants' is ably set forth in their refusal to give reason for my dismissal. This was illustrated by Councilman Powell's characteristic reply, at the 'star chamber' session the day preceding the council's action, when Powell remarked: 'We don't have to give a reason. We're councilmen and you're just an employee.'

"I have an abiding faith in the sense of fair play inherent in all Americans. I know that the people will not tolerate such un-Americanism and arrogance in their name."  
(Signed) "ROBERT LESSING."

### Council Inspects Hog Ranch; May Take Action Today

Four members of the city council undertook the role of sanitary inspectors late yesterday afternoon when they made a field trip to Edward F. Saul's hog ranch at 17518 South Arlington ave. to determine for themselves if claims that the establishment is generally unsanitary and should have its license revoked. Councilman James Hitchcock did not make the trip.

A hearing, with Saul present, was held by the council late Monday afternoon. At that time several neighboring residents of the hog ranch protested about conditions there. Saul maintained the excessive rains caused diversion of drain water into others' properties and he intended to correct this and clean up his place.

The council may take action on the complaint made April 1 by an inspector for the county health department who urged Saul's license be revoked.

**GETS FIREWORKS PERMIT.**  
Anthony Crutch, 2206 289th st. was given a permit by the council Tuesday night to operate a fireworks stand this coming Fourth of July.



**Safety-Sured Firestone DeLuxe CHAMPION**  
**BUY NOW ON OUR THRIFTY BUDGET PLAN**  
Pay As You Use  
**LOW, EASY TERMS**

**Firestone**  
AUTO SUPPLY & SERVICE STORE  
Cravens & Marcelina Phone 476

## Recall Starts As Lessing Ousted at Hectic Session of Torrance City Council

(Continued from Page 1-A)

sides of the student dances controversy" which was requested by Michael Strasser, city editor of The Torrance Herald, April 1 and refused—was made by Councilman Hitchcock and carried.

Several petitions endorsing Judge Lessing and expressing the desire that he remain in office were submitted to the council by Mrs. Flora Wright, secretary of the Coordinating Council. These laid on City Clerk A. H. Bartlett's desk unread until Strasser of The Herald requested that they be read.

"No request was made at the time they were submitted that they be read, Mr. Strasser," Mayor McGuire informed him. "I believe it is the usual practice—even of this council—to read all petitions addressed to it," the newsmen countered. When the petitions were read, City Clerk Bartlett announced they were signed by 131 signatures.

#### More Petitions to Follow

Wallace Gilbert, member of the first city council in Torrance, then informed the municipal board that at least two more petitions of similar endorsement of the judge were in circulation.

"And one of them has been signed by 80 percent of the business men of the city," he pointed out.

Later in the discussion, Mrs. Emma Quaggin, who was one of the first citizen-speakers to demand the council's reason for firing Lessing, asked Mayor McGuire:

"Just how many signatures would it require on petitions to impress you about our support of Judge Lessing?" Her question went unanswered—as were many others during the heated session.

#### No Comment on Shidler

It remained for Homer Kirkpatrick, an officer of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, to express what was apparently the opinion of nearly every person in the audience.

"It looks to me as the freedom and democracy is just a bunch of baloney—so far as this council is concerned. You still have not answered the question many of us have asked: Why was Lessing discharged? Do we have to wait here all night?"

Not once thruout the long discussion was any comment given by any of the speakers or member of the council to Attorney John Shidler's appointment as city judge. The fact that this appointment received no discussion indicated that those interested in the matter were intent only on getting a fair statement of the causes underlying Judge Lessing's ouster.

#### Powell Is Mute

Councilman Powell, making his only reply of the evening, said earlier in the discussion that the reasons for Lessing's dismissal were "all in here" (indicating a sheaf of city council minutes of previous sessions) and "anyone who wants to can inspect them at any time."

Strasser replying, stated: "Mr. Powell, these people here do not have the time to thumb thru voluminous council records. But they are here to have you do that for them. You are more acquainted with the council proceedings than most of us present tonight. We ask you to read those alleged charges right now." Powell did not reply.

The "fireworks" of the session began when Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to "oral communications." But before that was done, Murray brought up the matter of the student dances.

"It is not the intention of this council to discontinue the dance permanently. We plan to put it under other management so we took it away from the Coordinating Council. That doesn't mean that the Coordinating Council cannot have it back—at a later date. I suggest that we put the dances

dances because her two daughters attended them, asked this question:

"Have we parents any more assurance that the recreation department of your city will conduct the dances any better than the Coordinating Council?"

There was no reply by any member of the city council. Grover C. Whyte, publisher of The Torrance Herald, prompted a chorus of boos and groans which were obviously directed at Murray and a burst of applause for Whyte's comment when he said:

"I think Mrs. Hudson's assurance that the dances will be conducted on a 'high plane' is that they will be under the direction of the city recreation committee of which Councilman Murray is the chairman." Mrs. Hudson said her question had been answered. Attention of the audience veered from the student dances to Lessing's abrupt ouster with these typical comments from those present, each of whom was required by Mayor McGuire to identify himself "for the record."

Mrs. Roxie Sleeth: "I think the council is just as guilty as the members are attempting to paint Judge Lessing with this unreasonable attitude in regard to our requests for letter defending the student information on why the judge is being discharged."  
Mrs. Flora Wright: "The Coordinating Council has every faith in Judge Lessing. We know him for the fine citizen he is. Unless you can show with good cause that he is inefficient you are unwise in this action. We are the people and we are entitled to have our fellow in office. I protest most emphatically his dismissal."  
Mayor McGuire appealed for "no demonstrations" to quell the applause which followed each comment but the audience disregarded his gavel tappings. He declared that Judge Lessing's letter defending the student

ing to paint Judge Lessing with this unreasonable attitude in regard to our requests for letter defending the student information on why the judge is being discharged."

Mrs. Flora Wright: "The Coordinating Council has every faith in Judge Lessing. We know him for the fine citizen he is. Unless you can show with good cause that he is inefficient you are unwise in this action. We are the people and we are entitled to have our fellow in office. I protest most emphatically his dismissal."

Mayor McGuire appealed for "no demonstrations" to quell the applause which followed each comment but the audience disregarded his gavel tappings. He declared that Judge Lessing's letter defending the student

#### PLAN DAWN SERVICE

A special Easter Sunrise service will be held at the Torrance Foursquare church, 1287 El Prado, beginning at 5:15 a. m. Sunday. A special musical program has been arranged, it was announced by Rev. Ben Griffith, pastor.

Read Our Want Ads

### 15 In Fifth Draft Group Leaving Friday

(Continued from Page 1-A)

houseman, 26228 Monte Vista ave. Lomita.  
George Masao Yoshika, 26, nursery worker, Rt. 2 Box 338, Gardena.  
Kenneth George Nix, 29, welder, 1140 West 162nd at Gardena.  
James McLean Coll, 21, grocery salesman, 2107 Andrea ave. Torrance.  
Floyd Thomas Brownfield, 29, unemployed, 1789 Western ave. Torrance.  
Lucio Cendejas Ayala, 24, laborer, Brighton Hotel, Torrance.  
Ray Yamasaki, 21, farm laborer, P. O. Box 853, Palos Verdes.  
DePorte Johnson Skidmore, 17, unemployed, 1521 Date st. Torrance.

#### "Public Notices"

**NOTICE OF RECALL**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a recall petition will be submitted to the registered voters of the City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California, in order to secure the necessary number of signatures demanding the recall of John V. Murray, Lawrence V. Babcock, and George V. Powell, from the office of Councilman in and for the City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California,

on the grounds and for the following reasons:

That the above mentioned Councilmen and each of them arbitrarily and without cause, dismissed and removed from the office of Judge of the City of Torrance the Honorable Robert Lessing who has efficiently and satisfactorily administered the duties of the office of City Judge during the past six years and seven months;

That the above mentioned Councilmen and each of them are incompetent to handle the affairs of the City of Torrance, and they and each of them are guilty of conduct unbecoming to an official representative of the City of Torrance;

That the above mentioned Councilmen and each of them have persistently conducted secret and clandestine meetings where business of great interest to the public was transacted at a time impractical for the attendance of interested persons;

the registered voters of the City of Torrance.

Said petition will pray for the immediate recall of the said John V. Murray, Lawrence V. Babcock, and George V. Powell from the office of Councilman in and for the City of Torrance by reason of their arbitrary attitude and obstructionist activities and in accordance with the statutes and laws in such cases made and provided.

A copy of this notice together with the reasons for the recall will be sent by registered mail to each of the said Councilmen sought to be recalled.

Dated at the City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California this 9th day of April, 1941.

Henry C. Barrington, 2388 Torrance Blvd. 4-9-41.

Raymond J. Rogers, 2215 Andros Ave. 4-9-41.

Raymond E. Burdick, 1008 Sartori St. 4-9-41.

Ray H. Sleppy, 1229 Madrid 4-9-41.

George M. Bumpus, 23201 Narbonne Ave. 4-9-41.

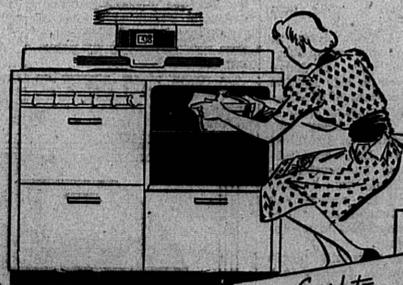
John J. Elder, 1012 Cota St. 4-9-41.

Thomas Ford, 825 Border 4-9-41.

Published April 10, 1941.



### NO COOKING METHOD EXCEEDS THE SPEED OF ELECTRICITY



Switch to ELECTRIC COOKING Now

#### COME TO THE COOKING SCHOOL

Newest ideas in cooking will be given at the coming All-Electric Cooking School. Attend each session and receive the latest ideas on meal preparation.

★ Snap the switch of a modern electric range and instantly it goes into high-gear action. In a matter of seconds the heating elements have reached working temperature; their oversize capacity enables them to cook food as fast as foods can be cooked.

But that's not all. The electric range is the only cooking appliance that applies all the heat to the bottom of the utensil. This means real speed and efficiency. With an electric range, pans cover the cooking unit entirely and rest flat upon it. There is no waste of heat around the sides or the bottom.

Roasting and baking are equally fast because the oven is sealed and insulated. No heat can escape. All of it stays in the oven to cook the food—and this means economy as well as speed.

Three times a day, every day in the year, you will be glad you bought an electric range. See the new models on display at your dealer today.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY LTD.

**ROBERTS LIQUOR STORES**

<b>AMBASSADOR SCOTCH WHISKEY</b> 10 YEARS OLD Fifth . . . . . \$2.69 Fifth . . . . . \$2.89	<b>BOCK BEER</b> NOW IN STOCK <b>Finer Flavour BEER</b> 3 FOR 27¢ CAN FULL QUARTS . . . . . 16¢ (Plus Deposit) GOLDEN STATE ICE CREAM Pt. 9¢ Qt. 17¢ PARTI ROLLS 19¢
<b>ROBERTS DRY GIN</b> 100% distilled from grain Quarts \$1.59 Pints . . . . . 83¢	<b>DELICATESSEN DEPT.</b> BREAD MILK LUNCH MEATS CHEESES PICKLES FRUIT JUICES SALADS EGGS CRACKERS
<b>EMPIRE DRY GIN</b> Fifth . . . . . 85¢	<b>ROBERTS FAMOUS Northern Calif. Bulk Wines</b> PORT, SHERRY, MUSCATEL, TOKAY, ANGELICA
<b>KENMORE BONDED BOURBON</b> Pint . . . . . 89¢	QUART GAL. 25¢ 90¢
SPECIALS FRIDAY and SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 12	